



Pat Quinn, Governor  
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of Illinois Department of Public Health, Hospital Emergency Departments, Infection Control Professionals, Infectious Disease Physicians

FROM: Communicable Disease Control Section  
Illinois Department of Public Health

DATE: September 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Update: Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) Respiratory Illness

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### Health care provider information

Health care professionals should be aware that EV-D68 is one of many causes of viral respiratory illness and should report clusters of severe unexplained respiratory illness (e.g. involving ICU hospitalization) to their local public health department. During the summer and fall, testing of children with severe respiratory illness for viral pathogens including enterovirus is recommended, if a bacterial etiology is not readily identified.

### Testing

Available commercial PCR tests can detect enteroviruses. Results are commonly reported as "entero-rhinovirus" or "human rhinovirus/enterovirus". Very few laboratories perform enterovirus strain typing. If enterovirus is confirmed by PCR in an ICU-hospitalized individual with respiratory illness, health care providers can contact their local health department to request typing of specimens at CDC. If multiple suspect cases (patients hospitalized with respiratory illness with PCR tests positive for enterovirus/rhinovirus) occur in a congregate setting (day care, developmentally disabled facility, long-term care, school or university) these are also specimens that we would encourage be submitted after approval by the local and state health department.

The local health department should check with the IDPH Communicable Disease Control Section about whether specimens can be sent from a particular facility and obtain an authorization number. All enterovirus positive specimens sent to CDC will require an authorization number. This number must be included on the laboratory submission form(s) sent to IDPH's Chicago lab. Large numbers of specimens (>5 per facility) are not needed to verify that the strain is circulating in an area. For details on specimen submission please visit the IDPH web portal page under Communicable Disease, A-Z, enterovirus.

## Reporting

Individual cases of enterovirus, including EV-D68, do not need to be entered into INEDSS as this is not a reportable disease. Because this disease is not reportable we do not have numbers of enterovirus cases from past months or years.

Local health departments should enter severe respiratory disease outbreaks during this time period of EV-D68 circulation into the IDPH Outbreak reporting system (ORS) if they meet the following criteria:

- Two or more cases of laboratory confirmed Enterovirus D68 in a congregate setting or facility such as a day care, long-term care facility, developmentally disabled facility, university, school or day care or other such facility.

Local health departments do not need to enter outbreaks where multiple laboratory confirmed cases are seen in hospitals from the community at large.

To help reduce the risk of infection with EV-D68:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are ill
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick;
- Stay home when feeling sick and obtain consultation from your health care provider.

Additional information about EV-D68 is available on the IDPH web portal, under Communicable Disease, A-Z, enterovirus

(<https://dph.partner.illinois.gov/communities/communicabledisease/CDAZ/Pages/Enterovirus.aspx>). Please review this information as this may answer questions you may have.